

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3804

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AG, UR, IR, AU, FR, XT, GW

SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN OCT.22 TALK WITH EMBOFF, CHIEF OF ECONMINISTRY'S
OFFICE OF NATURAL GAS (PLESSER) COMMENTED ON SEVERAL
CURRENT ISSUES.

2. IRAN-USSR-FRG "SWITCH" DEAL. FRG REMAINS
OPTIMISTIC THAT RUHRGAS-LED CONSORTIUM WILL MEET
NOVEMBER DEADLINE FOR SIGNING TWO BASIC CONTRACTS:
WITH NATIONAL IRANIAN GAS COMPANY, TO DELIVER 13
BILLION CUBIC METERS ANNUALLY TO ASTARA; WITH USSR,

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BILLION CUBIC METERS ANNUALLY TO ASTARA; WITH USSR,

TO DELIVER 11 BILLION CUBIC METERS ANNUALLY TO CONSORTIUM. GIVEN THIS OPTIMISTIC FORECAST, ECONMINISTRY HAS RECOMMENDED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT NOT REVIEW PROJECT IN ANY DETAIL DURING HIS VISIT TO TEHRAN NEXT MONTH. NIGC HAS NOT YET AWARDED CONTRACT FOR PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION FROM IRANIAN FIELDS TO SOVIET BORDER, AND -- DESPITE FRG RESISTANCE -- IS PRESSING FOR FRG EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEE.

3. ALGERIAN GAS. PLESSER SAW NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT THAT SAGAPE CONSORTIUM WILL RESUME TALKS WITH ALGERIAN SONATRACH, BUT HE CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS THAT "DOOR STILL OPEN" (REF BONN 13597). HE OPINED THAT WEST GERMAN GAS INDUSTRY NOW HAS SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED INTEREST IN ALGERIAN GAS, GIVEN PROSPECT OF ASSURED LARGE SUPPLIES FROM OTHER SOURCES OVER NEXT FEW YEARS.

4. ENERGY PROGRAM. FRG NOW REASSESSING ITS BASIC ENERGY POLICY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF DIMINISHED CONSUMPTION DUE RECESSION. THOUGH ABSOLUTE CONSUMPTION PATTERN WILL BE SCALED DOWN, FRG SEES NO NEED TO REVISE ITS FORECAST FOR SHIFT IN MAKE-UP OF ENERGY PIE OVER NEXT DECADE: I.E., GRADUAL REDUCTION OF CURRENT 55 PERCENT RELIANCE ON PETROLEUM TO 44 PERCENT BY 1985, WITH CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN RELIANCE ON GAS AND NUCLEAR POWER (18 PERCENT AND 15 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY BY 1985). PLESSER IS CONFIDENT THAT GAS TARGET WILL BE MET.

5. USSR ROLE. ASKED ABOUT LARGE VOLUME OF GAS WHICH FRG EXPECTS TO IMPORT FROM OR THROUGH USSR IN COMING YEARS, PLESSER SAID ECONMINISTRY HOPES TO LIMIT VOLUME TO 20-25 PERCENT OF TOTAL GAS SUPPLIES.
(NOTE: THIS MEANS THAT, IF GAS REACHED 18 PERCENT LEVEL IN 1980-1985, FRG WILL DRAW 3.6 - 4.5 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL PRIMARY ENERGY FROM FACILITIES IN SOVIET TERRITORY.)
HILLENBRAND

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